



Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

January 2006

EPIPHANY SUNDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1, we will celebrate Epiphany and New Year's Day. John Niblick will be in the pulpit and preside at the communion table. Start the New Year with the worship of God.

CHURCH COUNCIL CONTINUES ON SUNDAYS

The Church Council elected to continue meeting on the second Sunday of the month after worship in the Lose Library. This first Council of the New Year will be an in service training for our officers. Lunch will be provided.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TEAM MEETS WED. JAN. 11 at 6 pm

The first meeting of the new Administrative Support Team will be Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 6 p.m. in the Lose Library. We ask your prayers as we find our way forward and begin this transition process from committee meeting to policy and guidance team.

LEADER AND TEAM SUPPORT TRAINING SCHEDULED

Do you lead a small group? Would you like to lead a small group? This training with Susan Lowrey is for everyone who is a leader of a class or group in our church, or who filled out the Small Group Survey. It will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18 in the Lose Library. You will be so glad you participated in this as it will help you gain the skills you need for encouraging people, help with small group dynamics and your groups mission or ministry. Call Susan Lowrey if you need more information. Sunday School teachers are encouraged to attend – you are small group. Three new classes will begin in February.

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you so much for the prayers, phone calls, visits and beautiful cards. It is so good having a wonderful church family. Vernon and I feel so blessed with family and wonderful friends.

Norma Crooke

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY SPECIAL OFFERING ON JANUARY 15th

Human Relations Sunday offering supports the ministries of community developers and United Methodist Voluntary Service, programs of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, and youth offender rehabilitation programs coordinated by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Hmong Ministry, which was awarded a "The People Speak" grant from the United Nations for the New Year Celebration for dialogue around the millennium goals of the United Nations which are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
5. Reduce child mortality.
6. Improve maternal health.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

OUR FACIAL UPLIFT

Thanks to the efforts and concern for the church appearance, both Dee Carr and Gloria McClanahan have made our church landscaping a thing to be cherished - floral plants along Pollasky and the South parking lot, and sprinkler system installed (thanks to Jim McClanahan and Howard Vollman, brown grass turned green). These ladies made two of our palms along Scott Street vanish, and I have heard they have more in store for us.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop was open the first weekend in December. We had lots of customers and kept busy both days. Proceeds this month were \$661. We were encouraged by that. Again, thanks to our faithful volunteers who show up every month to do various jobs. We still need help on our work days the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Please consider giving us a hand if you can spare an hour or two on those days. We still need your donations, too. Thank you for continuing to bring those. Please don't leave them outside, though. Again, thanks for your continuing support.

Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT

Minnie Eller, Pastor Denice Leslie, Pat Frey, Margie Magargee, Pauline Middleton, Eleanor Haulman, Dee Carr and I met Dec. 13 to coordinate our congregation's concerns for our folks with continuing particular needs.

We shared our own needs and prayed for each other, our Special Friends and people facing current crises like depression, surgery, etc. We studied Isaiah 61: 3 & 4 which had been read Sunday. As Isaiah gave "good news" to former captive Hebrews, it seemed that his thought-pictures offered help to anyone whose life is beginning to open up again after painful experience: *God will give them: "A garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit."*

Our reports revealed that we had made some 21 visits, 40 'phone calls and 53 cards and notes. We decided to have our next meeting Tuesday, January 10 at 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Administration & Stewardship

ATTENDANCE & FINANCE STATISTICS

November 2005

Attendance Average – 153
Total – 612
Hmong Attendance Average -98
Total – 390
Total Attendance – 1000
Total Weekly Average Attendance – 250
Total offering \$17,254
Needed for Budget \$18,076

Multimedia Project Update

Income	\$43,880
Paid out	\$ 7,277
Estimate still due on Audio	\$16,707
Est. funds left for Visual equip.	\$19,896

Special Offerings

Thanksgiving Offering	\$1,620
Christmas Offering	\$1,081

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Recall when we played the game called "Simon Says." The game that taught us to listen very closely to what Simon said. For the past year we have run a series of articles calling your attention to our Permanent Endowment Funds, and its need of support. Thank you for your support. Every gift is appreciated. A percentage of the interest earned is transferred to our church treasury. The rest is rolled over adding to the funds growth. Rick Hutchinson, our Investment Expert has done a fine job for us. The contributions to the Permanent Endowment Fund will speed its growth. Thank you.

THANK YOU FROM THE LESLIES

Each year folks remember us at Christmas with cards, gifts and goodies. Your appreciation and love are in each and every one. Thank you. It's encouraging to have your support and care of myself and my family. People have asked about our children. Moira is in London as of January 4 for a semester with CSUF and returns in May. Rena is working and going to school in San Jose, living with her older sister Janet and husband. Ian and Tara are working and living in Morro Bay while Ian completes his schooling. He's applying to Cal Poly for the fall. Kim and I are grateful for all in this congregation who have contributed to the people they are today through your example and service. Kim, by the way, teaches English at Clovis East High School and is the Academic Decathlon Coach (which is a lot like being a youth pastor). I am blessed to be serving as your pastor for another year and look forward to being in ministry with you. Denice

Youth News

Sunday, Jan. 01, NO YOUTH MEETING - Happy New Year!
Monday, Jan. 2, Youth Afternoon Movie - "Chronicles of Narnia" (TTBA)
Saturday, Jan. 6, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Poverello House Work Day
Sunday, Jan. 8, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. "Lord of the Rings" Study
Sunday, Jan 15, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. "Lord of the Rings" Study
Sunday, Jan. 22, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Sunday Night at the Movies
Sunday, Jan. 29, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. "Lord of the Rings" Study

"Chronicles of Narnia" Matinee Jan. 2

As a last holiday gift to ourselves before the back to school grind, the youth group will attend an afternoon showing of "The Chronicles of Narnia" on Monday, Jan. 2, 2006. All 7-12 graders are invited - Friends are always welcome! The exact time and theatre will be announced as the date approaches, so keep an eye on the Sunday bulletins and on your e-mails. If you would like more information or if you have any questions, please contact Youth Worker Connie Alfaro at connie@clovismumc.org.

COACHES CORNER

Happy New Year! Where does the time go? 2006. That's a pretty number just to look at! The New Year brings changes and new possibilities for us in our ministry here at Memorial UMC. I want to report first on Charge Conference and then lift up a few of those possibilities in the making.

Charge Conference was probably the best time we've ever had at an annual meeting. We were hosted by the Oakhurst New Community UMC on a crisp December Sunday evening. They had a hearty pot of soup and yummy deserts and we brought up a variety of salads. Our District Superintendent was with us and we dealt with business fairly efficiently electing new officers for the ensuing year, passing new compensation packages for pastors and renewing our recommendation for Certified Lay Speakers. Our Certified Lay Speakers are Max Cannon, Scott Hatfield and Melody Yang. MUMC brought the recommendation from church Council for a change in structure: moving from a Board of Trustees and Finance Committee to an Administrative Support Team. The proposal passed.

This doesn't mean the Administrative Support Team will be up and running at full speed when it meets. This is new and we will be finding our way forward for some months to come. This first year is a year of transition and we will be making quarterly reports to the church Council to evaluate how things are going. We will also be getting our Finance and Facilities Project Teams to meet to review their ministries and to build community. This will all take time so if you were asked to serve on a project team, don't worry! You will be contacted.

We concluded our time together with a celebration of our ministries. The Oakhurst congregation shared a power point with us of their ministry and unfortunately, ours was on DVD and an absent input cord prevented us from showing ours but that didn't dampen our spirits. Ours shows highlights of many ministries from Wow Potluck, Boutique, Music Ministry, Hmong Ministry, Sunday School, Youth and Young Adults to our San Simeon Beach Camp/Motel Out. We ended the evening with a tour of their facilities and particularly enjoyed their charming Thrift Shop which was decked out for Christmas. We also envied their Thrift Shop space! We enjoyed the lights on the trip home with an invitation to from Oakhurst do something together half way through the year—something fun.

NEW THINGS IN A NEW YEAR:

1. Expanding Hmong Ministry with effort to bring Pastor Kham Dy Yang to Full Time appointment with the new appointment year, July 1, 2006.
2. New Church in Prather Area. Dick and Myrna Jones, MUMC and our Church Extension

Society are teaming up for this effort. The Jones' are spearheading the work in the target area where they live. They are already making contacts. As things progress we will offer our support with our presence from time to time as congregation, or choir, or Praise Team for gatherings of prospects. We will also offer office support for mailings etc. And above all our prayers! Please pray for this effort which will be financed by our Church Extension Society.

3. Possible Outreach for New Worship to Young Adults. Our Church Extension society has made us an offer we can't refuse but need good leadership to pursue: A grant for the purpose of a new worship to a new constituency. We would like to reach out to young adults in the Fresno and Clovis area to form fellowship with the goal of a new worship service designed to meet their needs and share the gospel of Jesus with a new generation. If you are interested speak with me. To start we would like to offer a meal for college and career folks on a weekend as we build community and a team. We hope the worship would expand to include others as well over time. CAN YOU COOK? CAN YOU VISIT OVER A MEAL? Can you pray for this project?
4. Small Group and Team Ministry Support. We would like to structure a monthly leader and team support for all leaders that will provide spiritual nourishment, networking, ongoing training and care as we seek to connect more folks to community and ministry in the life of our church.
5. Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Minds! That is the slogan of our UM Igniting Ministry Campaign of Hospitality. We will be expanding our ministry of hospitality this year as we seek to let folks not only know we are here and who we are—but as we receive each guest as we would receive the Lord himself. If you would like a bumper sticker, see me, I'll be ordering more soon and you will have the opportunity for other ways to help folks know who we are as well.

Pray for these efforts as we plant yet another crop in God's Garden this New Year that we will be faithful that called out leadership will emerge and we will discern where and how God is leading us.

Blessing in Christ,
Pastor Denice Leslie

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to everyone who contributed to helping make Christmas baskets for Hmong families in our congregation, for a total of 100 families. Thank you as wells to Susan and Jim Lowrey who coordinated this effort through Love, Inc.